

ATTACHMENT A – DEFINITIONS

Anti-Backsliding. Provisions in the Clean Water Act and U.S. EPA regulations [CWA 303 (d) (4); CWA 402 (c); CFR 122.44 (l)] that require a reissued permit to be as stringent as the previous permit with some exceptions.

Antidegradation. Policies which ensure protection of water quality for a particular water body where the water quality exceeds levels necessary to protect fish and wildlife propagation and recreation on and in the water. This also includes special protection of waters designated as outstanding natural resource waters. Antidegradation plans are adopted by the State to minimize adverse effects on water.

Applicable Standards and Limitations means all State, interstate, and federal standards and limitations to which a discharge, a sewage sludge use or disposal practice, or a related activity is subject under the CWA, including effluent limitations, water quality standards, standards of performance, toxic effluent standards or prohibitions, best management practices, pretreatment standards, and standards for sewage sludge use or disposal under sections 301, 302, 303, 304, 306, 307, 308, 403 and 405 of CWA.

Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) are those areas designated by the State Water Board as requiring protection of species or biological communities to the extent that alteration of natural water quality is undesirable.

Average Monthly Effluent Limitation (AMEL): the highest allowable average of daily discharges over a calendar month, calculated as the sum of all daily discharges measured during a calendar month divided by the number of daily discharges measured during that month.

Average Weekly Effluent Limitation (AWEL): the highest allowable average of daily discharges over a calendar week (Sunday through Saturday), calculated as the sum of all daily discharges measured during a calendar week divided by the number of daily discharges measured during that week.

Beneficial Uses of the waters of the State that may be protected against quality degradation include, but are not limited to, domestic, municipal, agricultural and industrial supply; power generation; recreation; aesthetic enjoyment; navigation; and preservation and enhancement of fish, wildlife, and other aquatic resources or preserves.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) means schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the pollution of waters of the United States. BMPs also include treatment requirements, operating procedures, and practices to control plant site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw material storage.

Best Professional Judgment (BPJ). The method used by permit writers to develop technology-based NPDES permit conditions on a case-by-case basis using all reasonably available and relevant data.

Bioaccumulative pollutants are those substances taken up by an organism from its surrounding medium through gill membranes, epithelial tissue, or from food and subsequently concentrated and retained in the body of the organism.

Bioassay. A test used to evaluate the relative potency of a chemical or a mixture of chemicals by comparing its effect on a living organism with the effect of a standard preparation on the same type of organism.

Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD). A measurement of the amount of oxygen utilized by the decomposition of organic material, over a specified time period (usually 5 days) in a wastewater sample; it is used as a measurement of the readily decomposable organic content of a wastewater.

Biosolids. Sewage sludge that is used or disposed through land application, surface disposal, incineration, or disposal in a municipal solid waste landfill. Sewage sludge is defined as solid, semi-solid, or liquid untreated residue generated during the treatment of domestic sewage in a treatment facility.

Bypass. The intentional diversion of wastestreams from any portion of a treatment (or pretreatment) facility.

Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand (CBOD). The measurement of oxygen required for carbonaceous oxidation of a nonspecific mixture of organic compounds. Interference caused by nitrifying bacteria in the standard 5-day BOD test is eliminated by suppressing the nitrification reaction.

Certifying Official. All applications, including NOIs, must be signed as follows:

For a corporation: By a responsible corporate officer, which means: (i) a president, secretary, treasurer, or vice-president of the corporation in charge of a principal business function, or any other person who performs similar policy or decision making functions for the corporation, or (ii) the manager of one or more manufacturing, production, or operating facilities, provided, the manager is authorized to make management decisions which govern the operation of the regulated facility including having the explicit or implicit duty of making major capital investment recommendations, and initiating and directing other comprehensive measures to assure long term environmental compliance with environmental laws and regulations; the manager can ensure that the necessary systems are established or actions taken to gather complete and accurate information for permit application requirements; and where authority to sign documents has been assigned or delegated to the manager in accordance with corporate procedures.

For a partnership or sole proprietorship: By a general partner or the proprietor, respectively;
or

For a municipality, state, federal, or other public agency: By either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official. A principal executive officer of a federal agency includes (i) the chief executive officer of the agency, or (ii) a senior executive officer having responsibility for the overall operations of a principal geographic unit of the agency.

Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD). A measure of the oxygen-consuming capacity of inorganic and organic matter present in wastewater. COD is expressed as the amount of oxygen consumed in mg/L. Results do not necessarily correlate to the biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) because the chemical oxidant may react with substances that bacteria do not stabilize.

Composite Sample. Sample composed of two or more discrete samples of at least 100 milliliters collected at periodic intervals during the operating hours of a facility over a 24-hour period. The aggregate sample will reflect the average water quality covering the compositing or sample period. For volatile pollutants, aliquots must be combined in the laboratory immediately before analysis. The composite must be flow proportional; either the time interval between each aliquot or the volume of each aliquot must be proportional to either stream flow at the time of sampling or the total stream flow since the collection of the previous aliquot. Aliquots may be collected manually or automatically.

Conventional Pollutants. Pollutants typical of municipal sewage, and for which municipal secondary treatment plants are typically designed; defined at 40 CFR 401.16 as BOD, TSS, fecal coliform bacteria, oil and grease, and pH.

Daily Discharge: Daily Discharge is defined as either: (1) the total mass of the constituent discharged over the calendar day (12:00 am through 11:59 pm) or any 24-hour period that reasonably represents a calendar day for purposes of sampling (as specified in the permit), for a constituent with limitations expressed in units of mass or; (2) the unweighted arithmetic mean measurement of the constituent over the day for a constituent with limitations expressed in other units of measurement (e.g., concentration).

The daily discharge may be determined by the analytical results of a composite sample taken over the course of one day (a calendar day or other 24-hour period defined as a day) or by the arithmetic mean of analytical results from one or more grab samples taken over the course of the day.

For composite sampling, if 1 day is defined as a 24-hour period other than a calendar day, the analytical result for the 24-hour period will be considered as the result for the calendar day in which the 24-hour period ends.

Daily Maximum Limit. The maximum allowable daily discharge of pollutant. Where daily maximum limitations are expressed in units of mass, the daily discharge is the total mass

discharged over the course of the 24-hour period. Where daily maximum limitations are expressed in terms of a concentration, the daily discharge is the arithmetic average measurement of the pollutant concentration derived from all measurements taken that 24-hour period.

Degrade (Degredation). Degradation shall be determined by comparison of the waste field and reference site(s) for characteristic species diversity, population density, contamination, growth anomalies, debility, or supplanting of normal species by undesirable plant and animal species. Degradation occurs if there are significant differences in any of three major biotic groups, namely, demersal fish, benthic invertebrates, or attached algae. Other groups may be evaluated where benthic species are not affected, or are not the only ones affected.

Dilution Credit is the amount of dilution granted to a discharge in the calculation of a water quality-based effluent limitation, based on the allowance of a specified mixing zone. It is calculated from the dilution ratio or determined through conducting a mixing zone study or modeling of the discharge and receiving water.

Dilution Ratio is the critical low flow of the upstream receiving water divided by the flow of the effluent discharged.

Discharge when used without qualification means the discharge of a pollutant. Discharge of a pollutant means:

1. Any addition of any pollutant or combination of pollutants to waters of the United States from any point source, or
2. Any addition of any pollutant or combination of pollutants to the waters of the contiguous zone or the ocean from any point source other than a vessel or other floating craft that is being used as a means of transportation.

This definition includes additions of pollutants into waters of the United States from: surface runoff which is collected or channeled by man; discharges through pipes, sewers, or other conveyances owned by a state, municipality, or other person which do not lead to a treatment works; and discharges through pipes, sewers, or other conveyances, leading into privately owned treatment works. This term does not include an addition of pollutants by any indirect Discharger.

Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) means the U.S. EPA uniform form, including any subsequent additions, revisions, or modifications for the reporting of self-monitoring results by permittees. DMRs must be used by approved states as well as by U.S. EPA. The U.S. EPA will supply DMRs to any approved state upon request. The U.S. EPA national forms may be modified to substitute the state agency name, address, logo, and other similar information, as appropriate, in place of U.S. EPA's.

Effluent Limitation means any restriction imposed by an Order on quantities, discharge rates, and concentrations of pollutants that are discharged from point sources into waters of the United States, the waters of the contiguous zone, or the ocean.

Grab Sample. An individual sample of at least 100 milliliters collected at a randomly selected time over a period not exceeding 15 minutes. The sample is taken from a waste stream on a one-time basis without consideration of the flow rate of the waste stream and without consideration of time of day.

Instantaneous Maximum Effluent Limitation: the highest allowable value for any single grab sample or aliquot (i.e., each grab sample or aliquot is independently compared to the instantaneous maximum limitation).

Instantaneous Minimum Effluent Limitation: the lowest allowable value for any single grab sample or aliquot (i.e., each grab sample or aliquot is independently compared to the instantaneous minimum limitation).

Maximum Daily Effluent Limitation (MDEL): the highest allowable daily discharge of a pollutant.

Method Detection Limit (MDL) is the minimum concentration of a substance that can be measured and reported with 99 percent confidence that the analyte concentration is greater than zero.

Minimum Level (ML) is the concentration at which the entire analytical system must give a recognizable signal and acceptable calibration point. The ML is the concentration in a sample that is equivalent to the concentration of the lowest calibration standard analyzed by a specific analytical procedure, assuming that all the method specified sample weights, volumes, and processing steps have been followed.

Sanitary Sewer. A pipe or conduit (sewer) intended to carry wastewater or water-borne wastes from homes, businesses, and industries to the POTW.

Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO). Untreated or partially treated sewage overflows from a sanitary sewer collection system.

Secondary Treatment Standards. Technology-based requirements for direct discharging municipal sewage treatment facilities. Standards are based on a combination of physical and biological processes typical for the treatment of pollutants in municipal sewage. Standards are expressed as a minimum level of effluent quality in terms of: BOD₅, total suspended solids (TSS), and pH (except as provided for special considerations and treatment equivalent to secondary treatment).

Six-month Median Effluent Limitation: the highest allowable moving median of all daily discharges for any 180-day period.

Surface Waters: Surface Waters include navigable waters, rivers, streams (including ephemeral streams), lakes, playa lakes, natural ponds, bays, the Pacific Ocean, lagoons, estuaries, man-made canals, ditches, dry arroyos, mudflats, sandflats, wet meadows, wetlands, swamps, marshes, sloughs and water courses, and storm drains tributary to surface waters. Surface Waters include waters of the United States as used in the federal Clean Water Act (see 40 CFR 122.2)

Technology-Based Effluent Limit. A permit limit for a pollutant that is based on the capability of a treatment method to reduce the pollutant to a certain concentration.

Toxic Pollutant. Pollutants or combinations of pollutants, including disease-causing agents, which after discharge and upon exposure, ingestion, inhalation or assimilation into any organism, either directly from the environment or indirectly by ingestion through food chains, will, on the basis of information available to the Administrator of U.S. EPA, cause death, disease, behavioral abnormalities, cancer, genetic mutations, physiological malfunctions, (including malfunctions in reproduction) or physical deformations, in such organisms or their offspring. Toxic pollutants also include those pollutants listed by the Administrator under CWA Section 307 (a) (1) or any pollutant listed under Section 405 (d) which relates to sludge management.

Toxicity Reduction Evaluation (TRE). A site-specific study conducted in a stepwise process designed to identify the causative agent(s) of effluent toxicity, isolate the sources of toxicity, evaluate the effectiveness of toxicity control options, and then confirm the reduction in effluent toxicity.

Upset is defined as (a) An unusual event that temporarily disrupts the usually satisfactory operation of a system. This definition constitutes the plain meaning or broad definition of the term “upset.” (b) An event more narrowly defined at 40 CFR 122.41 (n)(1) and which belongs to a subset of events that fit the definition of the term “upset” provided in (a).

Water Quality Control Plan consists of a designation or establishment for the waters within a specified area of all of the following:

1. Beneficial uses to be protected.
2. Water quality objectives.
3. A program of implementation needed for achieving water quality objectives.

Water Quality Objectives means the limits or levels of water quality constituents or characteristics which are established for the reasonable protection of beneficial uses of water or the prevention of nuisance within a specific area.

Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET). The total toxic effect of an effluent measured directly with a toxicity test.